



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC ESTABLISHES CASE TO REVIEW RELAY MISSOURI SURCHARGE

Jefferson City (December 18, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has established a case to review the current surcharge which appears on Missouri telephone bills to fund a statewide dual party relay system for the hearing and speech impaired (Relay Missouri).

The Relay Missouri Program provides deaf, hearing-impaired and speech-impaired citizens access to the telephone network to complete a call. A communications assistant translates a call so that a hearing/speech impaired party can communicate with any other party.

In a November 5, 2002 filing, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission asked the Commission open a case to review the surcharge that funds the Relay Missouri Program. As part of the filing, the PSC Staff has recommended that the current surcharge of 9 cents a month per telephone access line not be changed.

In 1990, the Missouri General Assembly enacted legislation requiring the Missouri Public Service Commission to investigate and determine the most beneficial and cost-effective method to implement a statewide dual party relay system. Missouri law requires the Commission to review the monthly surcharge no less frequently than every two years but no more than annually and to concurrently review the percentage deducted and retained by local telephone companies for billing and collection costs.

In March of 2001, the Missouri Public Service Commission lowered the monthly surcharge from 13 cents a month per telephone access line to its current rate of 9 cents a month in order that revenues generated reflect expenses to administer the fund.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before January 6, 2003, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. A copy of the application should be sent to the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

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